

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 13. (canceled).

14. (new): A filter structure, in particular a particle filter for the exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine, the filter being of the type comprising:

- at least first and second filter members provided with first and second faces located facing each other; and

- a joint connecting said faces together and extending between said faces;

wherein the first face comprises at least a first zone of strong adhesion with said joint and at least a zone of weak or no adhesion with the joint, said zones respectively comprising a first region of strong adhesion with said joint and a region of weak or no adhesion with joint, said regions being disposed respectively facing a first region of weak or no adhesion with said joint on the second face, and a region of strong adhesion with said joint on the second face.

15. (new): A structure according to claim 14, wherein the first face further comprises a second zone of strong adhesion with said joint comprising a second region of strong adhesion with said joint placed facing a second region of weak or no adhesion with said joint on the second face.

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16. (new): A structure according to claim 15, wherein, in at least one section of the filter structure, the region of weak or no adhesion with said joint on the first face lies between the first and second regions of strong adhesion with said joint on said first face.

17. (new): A structure according to claim 16, wherein said section is a longitudinal section.

18. (new): A structure according to claim 16, wherein said section is a cross-section.

19. (new): A structure according to claim 14, wherein at least one filter member is a prismatic brick having each of its side faces facing a side face of an associated filter member, a joint extending between said faces to connect them together; and wherein each of the side faces of the brick comprises at least one zone of strong adhesion between said face of the brick and said joint, and at least one zone of weak or no adhesion between said face and said joint, said zones comprising respectively a region of said face of the brick presenting strong adhesion with said joint, and a region of said face presenting weak or no adhesion with said joint, said regions being disposed respectively facing a region of the facing face of the associated filter member presenting weak or no adhesion with said joint, and a region of the facing face of the associated filter member presenting strong adhesion with said joint.

20. (new): A structure according to claim 19, wherein the region of the first face of the brick presenting strong adhesion with said joint is disposed opposite from a region of a second face of the same brick presenting weak or no adhesion with said joint.

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21. (new): A structure according to claim 14, wherein each of the zones of weak or no adhesion with said joint is covered in an anti-adhesive coating, at least prior to the structure being put into operation.

22. (new): A structure according to claim 14, wherein each of the first and second filter members has an admission face and an exhaust face interconnected by said first and second faces, at least one downstream region of the first face presenting weak or no adhesion with said joint extending to the common edge between the exhaust face and said first face.

23. (new): A structure according to claim 22, wherein said downstream region presents a length taken parallel to a longitudinal direction of the first filter member that is less than one-fifth of the length of said first filter member taken along said longitudinal direction.

24. (new): A structure according to claim 23, wherein said downstream region presents a length, taken parallel to a longitudinal direction of the first filter member, that is less than half of at least one other region of the same face.

25. (new): A structure according to claim 22, wherein the first filter member further comprises a side face adjacent to the first face, the side face presenting a side region of strong adhesion with said joint extending to the common outlet edge between said side face and said exhaust face.

26. (new): A structure according to claim 22, wherein at least the downstream region of weak or no adhesion with the joint, presents surface irregularities beside the joint, and in particular corrugations and/or grooves.